

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 NEA-10 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 EB-11 FEA-02 INT-08 AID-20

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R 251545Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2900

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 1590

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, UN

SUBJECT: WALDHEIM VISIT

SUMMARY: TWO-DAYWALDHEIM VISIT LEFT UNSYG IMPRESSED WITH GOWON MODERATION ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES WHICH WERE MAIN TOPIC OF DISCUSSION WITH NIGERIAN CHIEF OF STATE. ONLY SPECIFIC DECISION DURING VISIT WAS FMG AGREEMENT CONTRIBUTE TROOPS FOR UNEF IN MIDDLE EAST. END SUMMARY

1. UNSYG WALDHEIM PAID 48-HOUR VISIT TO NIGERIA FEBRUARY 21 23 IN COURSE OF NSS CURRENT TOUR OF AFRICAN STATES. DURING HIS STAY, WALDHEIM HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOWON AND COMMISSIONER EXTERNAL AFFAIRS ARIKPO AND WAS GUEST OF BOTH MEN AND OF FMG AT SOCIAL EVENTS.

2. ACCORDING UN SOURCE, WALDHEIM MEETING WITH GOWON
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STRETCHED FROM SCHEDULED 45 MINUTES TO FULL TWO-HOUR

SESSION. UNSYG CAME AWAY HIGHLY IMPRESSED WITH GOWON'S MODERATION AND THOUGHTFULNESS ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES WHICH WERE FOCUS OF THEIR EXCHANGES. GOWON AFFIRMED STRONGLY TO WALDHEIM HAS HOPE THAT MAJORITY RULE COULD BE ACHIEVED IN SOUTHERN AFRICA THROUGH PEACEFUL MEANS, AND INSISTED THAT HE HAS NOT YET GIVEN UP HOPE OF NONVIOLENT SETTLEMENT. FMG PRESS RELEASE ADDS THAT GOWON URGED UN "TO MAKE ITS PRESENCE FELT" IN NAMIBIA, URGED OIL EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT YOUNGER GENERATION OF SOUTH AFRICANS WOULD FORCE SAG TO ABANDON "OBNOXIOUS" APARTHEID.

3. GOWON AND WALDHEIM ALSO DISCUSSED MIDDLE EAST, WITH FMG HEAD OF STATE (ACCORDING TO PRESS RELEASE) CONGRATULATING SYG ON HIS SUCCESSFUL DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TOWARDS SETTLEMENT. GOWON ALSO ASSURED WALDHEIM OF GENUINENESS OF EGYPTIAN DESIRE SECURE LASTING SOLUTION. UN SOURCE REPORTS WALDHEIM TOOK OCCASION ASK GOWON FOR 700-MAN NIGERIAN CONTINGENT FOR UNEF, PRESUMABLY TO BE INSTALLED AT TIME NEXT TROOP ROTATION. ACCORDING SOURCE, GOWON AGREED IMMEDIATELY BUT INSISTED NIGERIAN CONTRIBUTION SHOULD BE AT FULL BATTALION STRENGTH OF 1800 MEN, DEMAND TO WHICH WALDHEIM REPORTEDLY ACCEDED.

4. FMG RELEASE NOTES THAT GOWON ALSO PLEDGED CONTINUED NIGERIAN SUPPORT FOR UN, PROMISE REPEATED BY ARIKPO IN HIS DINNER TOAST. GOWON ALSO ARGUED THAT UNSC MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE REVISED TO REDUCE ROLE OF FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS, BUT THERE IS NO INDICATION IN PRESS RELEASE THAT HE OFFERED SPECIFIC ALTERNATIVE. UN SOURCE SAID GOWON ALSO (A) EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT HIS SUCCESS IN PERSUADING SEKOU TOURE TO WITHDRAW COMPLAINT AGAINST HIS NEIGHBORS FROM UNSC; AND (B) SUPPORTED ALGERIAN CALL FOR UNGA SESSION ON PRIMARY PRODUCTS AND PROMISED TO SEND HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION WITH CAREFUL INSTRUCTIONS.

5. IN AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCES ON ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE, WALDHEIM WAS ASKED CHIEFLY ABOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA AND DROUGHT RELIEF MEASURES. HE GAVE DETAILED EXPOSITION OF UN EFFORTS TO COMBAT DROUGHT BUT URGED THIS BE TREATED CONFIDENTIAL

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ON LONG-TERM BASIS BY MODERN VERSION OF MARSHALL PLAN. ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, WALDHEIM PARTICULARLY URGED MAJOR POWERS TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO UN DECISIONS IN ORDER BOTH TO STRENGTHEN WORLD BODY AND TO MAKE UN DECISIONS MORE EFFECTIVE IN BRINGING ABOUT DESIRED CHANGES IN AREA.

6. COMMENT: BOTH SIDES EVIDENTLY PLEASED WITH VISIT, WHICH SHOULD FURTHER ENHANCE GOWON'S STANDING AT LEAST ON

UN STAGE. GOWON'S INSISTENCE ON CONTRIBUTING FULL
BATTALION TO UNEF PRESUMABLY BASED IN PART ON MILITARY
JUDGEMENT OF DESIRABILITY HAVING COMPLETE UNIT, BUT
PERHAPS ALSO IN PART ON INTEREST IN MAKING SURE THAT FMG
CONTINGENT IS AFRICA'S LARGEST IN KEEPING WITH NIGERIA'S
SELF-IMAGE OF LEADERSHIP.
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